

REMARKS

Claims 2-11 and 13-23 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 24-27 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicant reserves the right to file divisional applications at a later time. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of Amendment After Final Rejection

Entry of the amendment is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 because this Amendment a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) do not present any additional claims without canceling the corresponding number of final rejected claims; and d) place the application in better form for appeal, if an appeal is necessary. Entry of the amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates that claims 2-11 and 13-23 are allowed. As claims 24-27 have been canceled by this amendment, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

The rejection to claims 24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bourgoin et al. (hereinafter “Bourgoin”), U.S. Patent 6,643,521; and the rejection to claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bourgoin have been rendered moot as these claims have been canceled by this amendment.

With regard to claim 27, Applicant notes that claim 27 has not been rejected under art. However, in order to expedite prosecution of this application, claim 27 has also been canceled as claim 27 is similar to claim 26 and since claim 26 is currently rejected under art.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 2-11 and 13-23 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

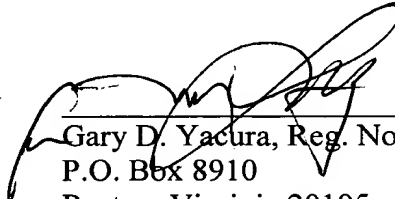
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

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